

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title	Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Project
Brief Description	<p>This project will augment current invasive plant management efforts within the Lower Owens River Project (LORP) area, a massive riverine restoration project in the southern Owens Valley that includes thousands of acres of rangeland. This project will increase the ability of the watershed to provide water for both agricultural endeavors, as well as for municipal use in Los Angeles through watershed function improvement. Most areas within the proposed project site are used for recreation - especially the LORP area. Since upstream populations create a seed source with the potential to infest areas within the LORP, management of these populations is critical to the future public benefits the Lower Owens River. Because agricultural production and recreation provide the two largest economic drivers to Inyo County, future economic viability relies on the proper management of our lands used for these purposes. Invasive plants threaten agriculture sustainability in two major ways. First, invasive plants degrade natural resources and environmental conditions in a manner that reduces the sustainability of the land supporting agriculture production. Examples of this may include the higher water usage of certain weed species that leaves less groundwater for desirable plants, more frequent fire events, or increased erosion and sedimentation of water due to poorly adapted root structures. Second, weeds can damage the quality of the agricultural product itself. This may be apparent in hay that cannot be sold because of invasive weed quarantines, lower livestock production due to the exclusion of desirable rangeland feed, or even the poisoning of livestock by weeds. The quality of a watershed and the sustainability of agricultural working landscapes are linked by the resources they share, and the quality of these resources largely on proper management and removal of invasive plant species populations. The Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office (AgComm) has managed invasive plant management projects successfully for decades – from small one acre projects to region-wide abatement endeavors. This project is an important component of a larger, comprehensive regional management strategy. Since 2002, known weed populations within Inyo and Mono Counties have decreased 79% due to this important work, and ceasing or diminishing efforts now will negate past successes and lead to sharp increases in future management costs. Specific project goals include survey efforts on over 50,000 acres to locate any invasive plant pioneer populations, and management of 5,870 acres of agricultural lands with known weed populations, resulting in a 70% decrease in net infested acres and eradication of 15 sites. Survey efforts will enable AgComm to identify unknown "pioneer" weed populations, allowing for rapid response management and comprehensive area data to assess the larger threat to agriculture. Treatment efforts will reduce and remove invasive plant populations, immediately improving rangeland function and reducing the threat of</p>

	spread onto croplands. The strategy that the Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office (AgComm) will employ to reach these goals includes increasing personnel levels to "surge" control and eradication efforts. This will reduce populations in the area rapidly, lowering the threat to the watershed and associated agricultural lands to a level that may be eradicated completely through future efforts at a much lower cost.
Total Requested Amount	112,482.00
Other Fund Proposed	110,426.00
Total Project Cost	222,908.00
Project Category	Site Improvement/Restoration
Project Area/Size	52000
Project Area Type	Acres
Have you submitted to SNC this fiscal year?	No
Is this application related to other SNC funding?	No

Project Results
Resource protection

Project Purpose	Project Purpose Percent
Natural Resource	
Resource Management	

County
Inyo

Sub Region
East

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Mr. Nathan Reade,
Title	Grant Manager
Organization	Inyo/Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Primary Address	207 West South Street Room 6, , , Bishop, CA, 93514
Primary Phone/Fax	670-873-7860 Ext.
Primary Email	inyomonoag@gmail.com

PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION

Project Location

Address:	West Side of LA Aqueduct, , , South of Independence, CA, 93526
United States	
Water Agency:	LADWP
Latitude:	36.830953
Longitude:	-118.20041
Congressional District:	n/a
Senate:	n/a
Assembly:	n/a
Within City Limits:	No
City Name:	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grant Application Type

Grant Application Type:
Category One Site Improvement

Grant Application Type:
Category One Site Improvement

PROJECT OTHER CONTACTS INFORMATION

Other Grant Project Contacts
Name: Mr. Nathan Reade, Project Role: Day-to-Day Responsibility Phone: 7608737860 Phone Ext: E-mail: inyomonoag@gmail.com

UPLOADS

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name
Completed Application Checklist
Table of Contents
Full Application Form
Authorization to Apply or Resolution
Narrative Descriptions
CEQA Documentation
Detailed Budget Form
Letters of Support
Long Term Management Plan
Project Location Map
Parcel Map Showing County Assessors Parcel Number
Topographic Map
Photos of the Project Site
Land Tenure- Only for Site Improvement Projects

Site Plan - Only Site Improv. or Restoration Proj.
Leases or Agreements

To preserve the integrity of the uploaded document, headers, footers and page numbers have not been added by the system.

Appendix B1

Full Application Checklist

Project Name: Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Project

EGID#: 700

Applicant: Inyo and Mono Counties' Agricultural Commissioner's Office

Please mark each box: check if item is included in the application; mark "N/A" if not applicable to the project. "N/A" identifications must be explained in the application. Please consult with SNC staff prior to submission if you have any questions about the applicability to your project of any items on the checklist. All applications must include a CD including an electronic file of each checklist item, if applicable. The naming convention for each electronic file is listed after each item on the checklist. (Electronic File Name = EFN: "naming convention". file extension choices)

Submission requirements for all Category One and Category Two Grant Applications

1. ☒ Completed Application Checklist (EFN: Checklist.pdf)
2. ☒ Table of Contents (EFN: TOC.doc or .docx)
3. ☒ Full Application Project Information Form (EFN: fapi.doc or .docx)
4. ☒ Authorization to Apply or Resolution (EFN: authorization.doc or .docx)
5. ☒ Narrative Descriptions - Submit a single document (maximum 10 pages, Arial 12 pt font, 1 inch margins) that includes each of the following narrative descriptions (EFN: Narrative.doc or .docx)
 - a. ☒ Detailed Project Description
 - ☒ Project Description including Goals/Results, Scope of Work, Location, Purpose, etc.
 - ☒ Project Summary
 - ☒ Environmental Setting
 - b. ☒ Workplan and Schedule
 - c. ☒ Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements – Category One projects only
 - d. ☒ Organizational Capacity
 - e. ☒ Cooperation and Community Support
 - f. ☒ Long Term Management and Sustainability
 - g. ☒ Performance Measures
 - h. ☒ Budget Narrative
6. Supplemental and Supporting documents
 - a. ☒ CEQA/NEPA Compliance Form (EFN: CEQAform.doc or .docx)
 - ☐ N/A California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation (EFN: CEQA.pdf) *See CEQA/NEPA Compliance Form*
 - ☐ N/A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation (EFN: NEPA.pdf)
This project is not being conducted on federal land or by a federal agency

- b. ☒ Detailed Budget Form (EFN: Budget.xls, .xlsx)
- c. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements, as applicable
 - Category One projects only *See narrative*
 - ☐ Restrictions / Agreements (EFN: RestAgree.pdf) *None exist - See narrative page 8*
 - ☐ Regulatory Requirements / Permits (EFN: RegPermit.pdf) *None - See narrative page 8*
- d. Cooperation and Community Support
 - ☒ Letters of Support (EFN: LOS.doc, .docx or .pdf)
- e. Long-Term Management and Sustainability
 - ☒ Long-Term Management Plan (EFN: LTMP.pdf)
- f. Maps and Photos
 - ☒ Project Location Map (EFN: LocMap.pdf)
 - ☐ Parcel Map *Not an acquisition, project scope covers hundreds of parcels*
 - ☒ Topographic Map (EFN: Topo.pdf)
 - ☒ Photos of the Project Site (10 maximum) (EFN: Photo.jpg, .gif)
- g. Additional submission requirements for Conservation Easement Acquisition application only *N/A – Not a conservation easement project*
 - ☐ Acquisition Schedule (EFN: acqSched.doc, .docx, .rtf, .pdf)
 - ☐ Willing Seller Letter Real Estate Appraisal
 - ☐ Conservation Easement Language (EFN: CE.pdf)
 - ☐ Third Party Transfer Acknowledgment Letter
 - ☐ (if applicable) (EFN: Transfer.pdf)
- h. Additional submission requirements for Site Improvement/Restoration Project application only
 - ☒ Land Tenure Documents – attach only if documentation was not included with Pre-application (EFN: Tenure.pdf)
 - ☒ Site Plan (EFN: SitePlan.pdf)
 - ☒ Leases or Agreements (EFN: LeaseAgmnt.pdf)

I certify that the information contained in the Application, including required attachments, is accurate.

Signed _____ (Authorized Representative)

Date

George Milovich, Agricultural Commissioner
Name and Title (print or type)

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Appendix B2

Project Information Form

PROJECT NAME (Limit name to 10 words or less)

EGID# 700

Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Project

APPLICANT NAME (Legal name, address, and zip code)

*Inyo and Mono Counties' Agricultural Commissioner's Office
207 W South Street
Bishop, CA 93514*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Refer to Sec. IV, 5a in the GAP.

Has the project description been updated from the project description submitted with the Pre-Application form? (Choose One) ☐ SAME ☒ UPDATED

CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL GENERAL PLAN

Is this project consistent with the appropriate jurisdiction's (city/county) general plan?

☒ Yes ☐ No (If not, explain why not.)

WILLIAMSON ACT STATUS (for conservation easement acquisition projects only)

Is the project enrolled in a Williamson Act contract with the local county? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, what is the expiration date of the contract? _____

FUNDING AND BUDGET INFORMATION

SNC Grant Request \$ 112,482

☐ Check if SNC is the sole funder of this project

PERSON WITH FISCAL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT CONTRACT/INVOICING

Name and title – type or print	Phone	Email Address
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. George Milovich, Agricultural Commissioner	760.873.7860	inyomonoag@gmail.com

PERSON WITH DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT (Only include this information if different from pre-application submittal)

Name and title – type or print	Phone	Email Address
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Nathan Reade, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner	760.873.7860	inyomonoag@gmail.com

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR PLANNING DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION *(At least one entry with Email address is REQUIRED)*

Name: Kevin Carunchio, CAO

Phone Number: 760.878.0292

Email Address: kcarunchio@inyocounty.us

Name: Josh Hart

Phone Number: 760.878.0263

Email Address: jhart@inyocounty.us

NEAREST PUBLIC WATER AGENCY (OR AGENCIES) CONTACT INFORMATION *(At least one entry with Email address is REQUIRED)*

Name: LADWP

Phone Number: 760.872.1104

Email Address: Clarence.martin@ladwp.com

Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Please identify the appropriate project category below and provide the associated details*(Choose One – should be the same as the category identified in the pre-application)*☒ Category One Site Improvement☐ Category Two Pre-Project Activities☐ Category One Conservation Easement Acquisition☒ **Site Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition**Project Area: 52,000 acresTotal Acres: 52,000 acres

SNC Portion (if different): _____

Total Miles (i.e. river or stream bank): _____

SNC Portion (if different): _____

For Conservation Easement Acquisitions Only☐ Appraisal Included☐ Will submit appraisal by _____**Select one primary Site Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition deliverable**☐ Stream Restoration/Protection☐ Management Practices Changes☒ Natural Resource Protection☐ Infrastructure Development/Improvement☐ Conservation Easement**Does the applicant intend to transfer the easement to a third party?** ☐ Yes ☐ NoIf yes, is the third party organization known? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please attach a letter from this organization documenting their willingness to assume the long term management of the project.☐ **Pre-Project Activities****Select one primary Pre-Project deliverable**☐ Permit☐ Condition Assessment☐ CEQA/NEPA☐ Biological Survey☐ Appraisal☐ Environmental Site☐ Plan

Assessment

RESOLUTION NO. 2012- 45
A RESOLUTION OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
COUNTY OF INYO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY GRANT PROGRAM UNDER
PROPOSITION 84

Whereas, the Legislature and the Governor of the State of California have provided funds under Proposition 84, The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act; and

Whereas, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of a portion of the Proposition 84 funds through a local assistance grants program, establishing necessary procedures; and

Whereas, said procedures established by the SNC require a resolution certifying approval of the application by the Applicant's governing board before submission of said application to the SNC; and

Whereas, Inyo County, if selected, would enter into an agreement with the SNC to carry out the Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Project; and

Whereas, the County has identified the Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Project as valuable toward meeting its mission and goals.

Now, therefore let it be resolved by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors to:

- (a) approve the submittal of an application for the Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Project;
- (b) certify the understanding of the assurances and certification requirements in this application
- (c) certify that Inyo County has sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resources consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application;
- (d) certify that Inyo County will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process; and
- (e) appoints the Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner and his/her designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to: the application, agreements, payment requests, etc., which may be necessary for the completion of the Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Project in connection with the SNC.

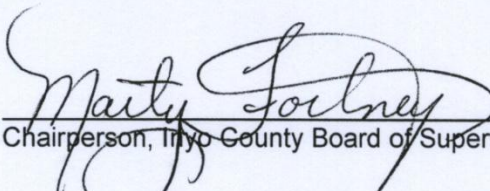
Passed and Adopted by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors this 16th day of October, 2012 by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors:

AYES: Supervisors Cash, Fortney and Cervantes

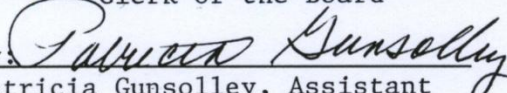
NOES: -0-

ABSENT: Supervisors Arcularius and Pucci

ABSTAIN: -0-

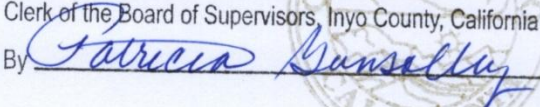

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: KEVEN D. CARUNCHIO
Clerk of the Board

by: 
Patricia Gunsolley, Assistant

The foregoing instrument is a full, true and correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Attest October 17 20 12
Kevin D. Carunchio, Administrative Officer and
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Inyo County, California

By: 

Project Description

This project will augment current invasive plant management efforts within the Lower Owens River Project (LORP) area, a massive riverine restoration project in the southern Owens Valley that includes thousands of acres of rangeland. This project will increase the ability of the watershed to provide water for both agricultural endeavors, as well as for municipal use in Los Angeles through watershed function improvement. Most areas within the proposed project site are used for recreation - especially the LORP area. Since upstream populations create a seed source with the potential to infest areas within the LORP, management of these populations is critical to the future public benefits the Lower Owens River. Because agricultural production and recreation provide the two largest economic drivers to Inyo County, future economic viability relies on the proper management of our lands used for these purposes.

Invasive plants threaten agriculture sustainability in two major ways. First, invasive plants degrade natural resources and environmental conditions in a manner that reduces the sustainability of the land supporting agriculture production. Examples of this may include the higher water usage of certain weed species that leaves less groundwater for desirable plants, more frequent fire events, or increased erosion and sedimentation of water due to poorly adapted root structures. Second, weeds can damage the quality of the agricultural product itself. This may be apparent in hay that cannot be sold because of invasive weed quarantines, lower livestock production due to the exclusion of desirable rangeland feed, or even the poisoning of livestock by weeds. The quality of a watershed and the sustainability of agricultural working landscapes are linked by the resources they share, and the quality of these resources largely on proper management and removal of invasive plant species populations.

The Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office (AgComm) has managed invasive plant management projects successfully for decades – from small one acre projects to region-wide abatement endeavors. This project is an important component of a larger, comprehensive regional management strategy. Since 2002, known weed populations within Inyo and Mono Counties have decreased 79% due to



Rangeland near Lower Owens River

this important work, and ceasing or diminishing efforts now will negate past successes and lead to sharp increases in future management costs.

Specific project goals include survey efforts on over 50,000 acres to locate any invasive plant pioneer populations, and management of 5,870 acres of agricultural lands with known weed populations, resulting in a 70% decrease in net infested acres and eradication of 15 sites. Survey efforts will enable AgComm to identify unknown “pioneer” weed populations, allowing for rapid response management and comprehensive area data to assess the larger threat to agriculture. Treatment efforts will reduce and remove invasive plant populations, immediately improving rangeland function and reducing the threat of spread onto croplands.

The strategy that the Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner’s Office (AgComm) will employ to reach these goals includes increasing personnel levels to “surge” control and eradication efforts. This will reduce populations in the area rapidly, lowering the threat to the watershed and associated agricultural lands to a level that may be eradicated completely through future efforts at a much lower cost.

Project Purpose

Sustainability of agriculture production and the resources contained in agricultural working landscapes depends largely on proper management and removal of invasive plant species populations. Issues that may be avoided through the eradication and control of weedy invaders include increases in erosion, air quality consequences due to dust events, fire regime and plant cover alterations, and decreased flood control capacity. All of these issues can result in sustainability problems for ranches and farms.

Weed Impacts

Working Landscape Consequences

- Agriculture Economy Threatened
- Lower property Values

Water Quality Consequences

- Erosion
- Increased Sedimentation
- Aquatic Species Threatened
- Municipal Supply Threatened

Recreation Consequences

- Tourism Economy Losses
- Access Diminished due to impassible invasive plant communities and exclosures to prevent spread

Wildlife Habitat Consequences

- Lowered Species Diversity
- Native Plant Communities Threatened

Air Quality Consequences

- Worsened Dust Events
- Public Health Issues

Fire Consequences

- Changes in Fire Regimes
- Exacerbated Fire Severity

Additionally, encroachment of state rated pest weeds on farming land can reduce yield of crops or render them unmarketable, and colonization of invasive plants on grazing land can reduce forage and even poison livestock in certain cases.

The goal of this project is to eradicate or reduce known weed populations in sites directly upstream of the LORP area, while also providing invasive plant surveys in these areas to ensure a comprehensive and accurate database of known sites. The



success of this project will help the sustainability and profitability of local grazing and farmland, fostering our local economy, while also improving watershed with regional and statewide benefits stemming from more efficient water supply and improved recreational opportunities.

The goals of Proposition 84, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), and the agricultural industry within the SNC boundaries are consistent. This project addresses concerns from each of these entities, as illustrated in the graphic to the right. Managing invasive plants improves watershed health and function – improving water supply and quality, recreation, working landscapes, and ultimately public benefit.

Scope of Work

This project proposal encompasses approximately 52,000 acres of grazing and farming lands upstream of and within the LORP boundaries. Within this project site, 38 specific weed sites exist that require management. The remainder of the 52,000 acres will be surveyed and any new sites will be managed and cataloged in the AgComm invasive plant database. Project goals will be facilitated by category one funding from SNC to provide the following:

1. Employment of two seasonal field assistants to augment one county funded full-time field technician to manage invasive plant populations and conduct surveys in target areas.
2. Supply operational needs such as vehicle mileage costs, equipment operation costs, personal protective equipment, and herbicides.

Project Summary

The Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal and Survey Project aims to both supplement current invasive plant management activities, as well as provide weed detection surveys, within and in areas bordering the LORP project area in the southern Owens Valley. AgComm will follow a proven successful management strategy of enhancing on-the-ground management resources while identifying pioneer populations with potential to expand and invade nearby agricultural lands. This project will enhance both watershed function as well as sustainability of agriculture in the region by:

- Managing 5,870 acres of known infested area
- Reducing this known acreage by 70%
- Eradicating 15 of the 38 known sites within the known infested area
- Surveying 52,000 surrounding acres to identify unknown pioneer populations

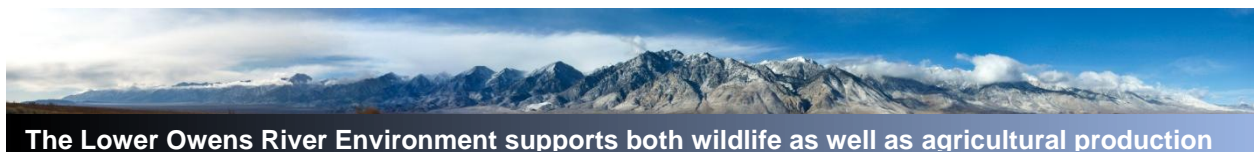
The outcome of completing these goals will:

- Enhance the overall function of the watershed, improving environmental conditions such as wildlife habitat, flood control capacity, water quality and quantity, wildland fire function, and native plant habitat
- Enhance recreation and other public benefit value through increased recreational opportunities and access, and more reliable municipal water supply
- Enhance local and regional agriculture production sustainability through higher quality and quantity of forage and crops, as well as protection of the natural resources and processes that facilitate this agriculture production.

Environmental Setting

The proposed project area includes rangeland and agricultural land within and surrounding the Lower Owens River Project area in Inyo County. This largest-ever river rewatering project is a great example of balancing environmental benefit with public benefit, as well as maintaining a working agricultural landscape. Invasive plants threaten each of these benefits, and this project endeavors to sustain and improve these benefits through effective weed management.

The proposed project will not result in any changes to current land uses, which include rangeland, cropland, recreation areas, and water export. This project is consistent with the Inyo County General Plan, as well as the LORP Green Book, EIR, and recreation plan.



Workplan and Schedule

The anticipated life of the proposed project is 18 months, beginning May 1, 2013 and ending October 31, 2014. This project span will facilitate two active seasons of field work toward the project goals. The following table outlines the project schedule:

PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
2013 Management Season	
Seasonal field staff hiring activities	April, 2013
Training and orientation of staff	May 1- May 3, 2013
Field work - treatment activities	May 6 – May 31 and August 1- August 30, 2013
Field work – survey activities	June 3 – July 31 and September 3 – October 25, 2013
Season wrap-up and data analysis	October 28 – 31, 2013
Annual report compilation	October 28 – 31, 2013
2014 Management Season	
Seasonal field staff hiring activities	April, 2014
Training and orientation of staff	May 1- May 2, 2014
Field work - treatment activities	May 5 – May 30 and August 1 – August 29, 2014
Field work – survey activities	June 2 – July 31 and September 2 – October 17, 2014
Season wrap-up and data analysis	October 20 – 29, 2014
Final report compilation	October 30 – 31, 2014

Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements

No restrictions exist that would hinder or preclude the completion of the proposed project. As the regulatory agency responsible for both the local enforcement of the California Food and Agriculture Code, as well as regulating pesticide use, the Inyo/Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner is exempt from all permitting required within the proposed scope of the project. No herbicide applications are proposed within a distance to water requiring water board or Department of Fish and Game permitting.

Several environmental documents as well as agreements exist that apply to and support this project. The following references provide several of these:

- LORP Ecosystem Management Plan (adaptive management overview)
- LORP Monitoring, Adaptive Management and Reporting Plan
- LORP Final EIR

Each of these, and other documents, can be accessed at www.inyowater.org/LORP.

Organizational Capacity

The Inyo and Mono Counties Agricultural Commissioner's Office has managed invasive plant management projects successfully for decades – from small one acre projects to region-wide abatement endeavors. As the administrative entity within the Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area group, which includes 15 regional and local agencies and entities, AgComm has the resources and networking ability to solve complex invasive plant issues.

For over 130 years, the goal of the California Agricultural Commissioners has been to promote and protect California's agricultural industry in a localized manner. To meet these goals, Agricultural Commissioner's offices interact and work with local growers and ranchers on a regular basis. This interaction allows our organization to maintain an accurate appraisal of issues that most threaten the economic sustainability of our local agriculture industry. AgComm has both the resources to deal effectively with invasive plant threats, as well as the regional knowledge to assess these threats to best mitigate the threat to local agriculture sustainability.

AgComm completed successfully a similar project funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in 2009, and has applied both the efficacious aspects as well as the lessons learned from this earlier project to recent projects with much success. AgComm will apply this same effective management model to the proposed project.

Cooperation and Community Support

Our office has provided invasive species management technical expertise, resources, and on-the-ground assistance to local and regional groups, private landowners, and agricultural producers for decades. This interaction has fostered positive and productive relationships with each of the entities. Because of these interactions, and also through regular community workshops and outreach efforts, our office is the first place consulted on weed issues typically, and AgComm has extensive local and regional community support.

Please see the attached letters of support from several local and regional entities.

Long-Term Management and Sustainability

The proposed project will, after completion, remain within the management structure of the LORP. Because of this, long-term management is assured due to the Inyo County/Los Angeles Long Term Water Agreement, the recently released LORP Recreation Plan, the LORP Monitoring, Adaptive Management, and Reporting Plan, and several other documents and agreements. AgComm is the agency tasked with the weed management component of the LORP management, including education and

outreach to agricultural producers, and because of this will have the ability to ensure effective future management and sustainability.

This project, in a way, produces its own sustainability. Experience from past projects in our region, including a previous project funded by the SNC and employing the same strategy as this proposed project, illustrates the effectiveness of “surging” resources to bring invasive populations to a level eradicable by smaller crews in a short time. By reducing infestations rapidly over a few years, AgComm will create conditions that allow for the eradication of, and removal of the threat to, sustainable agriculture caused by the weed populations within five years. Additionally, the function of the project survey component will identify any unknown populations nearby, allowing for future planning to mitigate the threat that these infestations may pose to area watersheds and agricultural resources.

Performance Measures

Project success will be gauged through the following standards:

1. *Acres of weeds managed* – All known sites within the proposed project area must be visited at least twice per year, and appropriate management practices applied.

Goal: 5,870 acres of active sites managed per year.

2. *Acres of land surveyed* – The entire project area will be surveyed annually.

Goal: 52,000 acres surveyed for invasive plants per year.

3. *Reduction of known sites* – Management activities must be effective, and performance of these activities will be measured by total reduction of populations.

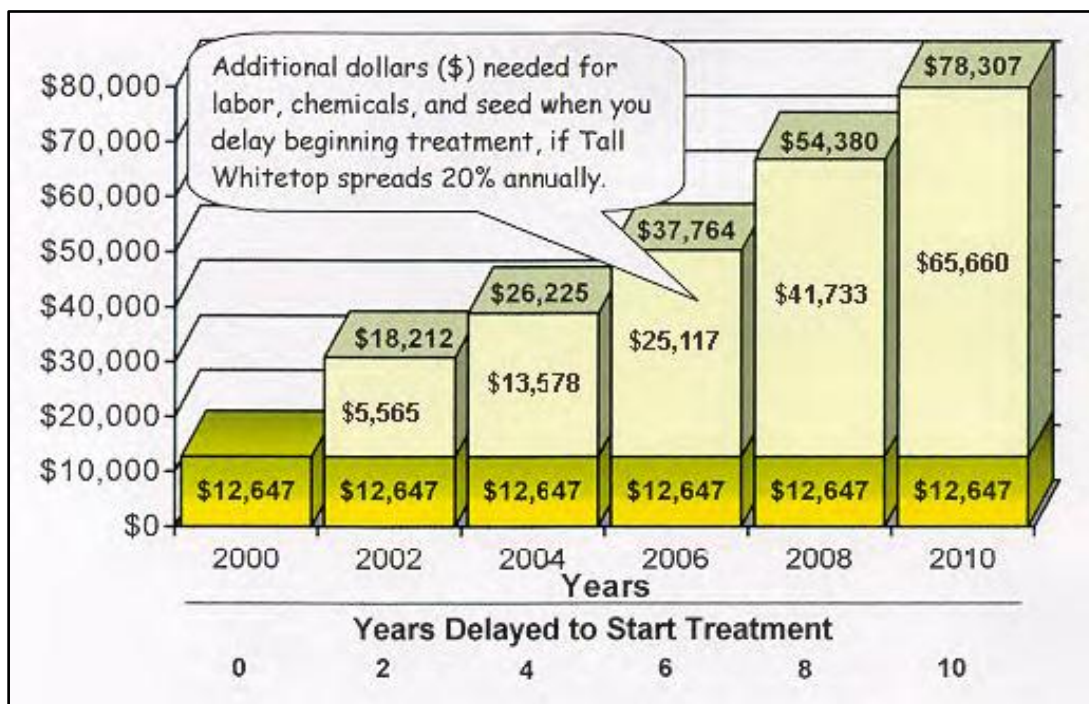
Goal: 70% acreage reduction of known invasive plant sites.

4. *Eradication of high-value sites* – Certain sites within the project area have more destructive potential due to proximity to water, proximity to other routes of movement such as roads, and other attributes. The management goal for these sites is aggressive eradication.

Goal: Eradication of 15 of the 38 known sites.

Budget Narrative

The majority of requested funds will be used to increase field staffing levels, which is the current deficiency limiting the ability of AgComm to eradicate rather than control weeds within the project area. This will allow a shift in strategy that focuses more on eliminating the threat to grazing and agricultural lands, rather than spending decades and ultimately more funds attempting to just control these weeds. Previous AgComm projects, as well as academic research show that the most cost effective manner to eliminate weeds and threats associated with weeds is to eradicate populations as soon as possible. The following chart, created by the University of Nevada Reno, illustrates this concept using *Lepidium latifolium* (or Whitetop) as an example weed species. This is the same species that this proposed project aims to eliminate.



The in-kind funding of \$55,213 per year proposed by this project is in place, and is composed of in-kind staff hours provided through existing LORP funding, and equipment and mileage contributions.

Appendix B4

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

PROPOSITION 84 - DETAILED BUDGET FORM

Project Name: Lower Owens Invasive Plant Removal

Applicant: Inyo and Mono Counties' Agricultural Conservation

SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Project Cost Breakdown		
				Year One (2013)	Year Two (2014)	Year Three (2015)
Personnel - Field Tech II	190	\$ 37.49	\$ 7,123.10	\$ 3,561.55	\$ 3,561.55	
Personnel - Field Assistant	1700	\$ 18.16	\$ 30,872.00	\$ 15,436.00	\$ 15,436.00	
Personnel - Field Assistant	1700	\$ 18.16	\$ 30,872.00	\$ 15,436.00	\$ 15,436.00	
Personnel - Field Assistant	2040	\$ 17.25	\$ 35,190.00	\$ 17,595.00	\$ 17,595.00	
Polaris Herbicide	1.25	\$ 68.50	\$ 85.63	\$ 42.81	\$ 42.81	
Milestone Herbicide	0.2	\$ 322.96	\$ 64.59	\$ 32.30	\$ 32.30	
MSO Herbicide Carrier	0.7	\$ 16.16	\$ 11.31	\$ 5.66	\$ 5.66	
AgriDex Surfactant	0.7	\$ 15.09	\$ 10.56	\$ 5.28	\$ 5.28	
Vehicle Mileage	13,230	0.55	\$ 7,276.50	\$ 3,638.25	\$ 3,638.25	
Protective Equipment (per day)	240	4.07	\$ 976.80	\$ 488.40	\$ 488.40	
DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL	19102.85	518.39	\$ 112,482.49	\$ 56,241.25	\$ 56,241.25	

SECTION TWO INDIRECT COSTS	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Project Cost Breakdown		
				Year One (2013)	Year Two (2014)	Year Three (2015)

INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL

PROJECT TOTAL

SECTION THREE Administrative Costs	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Project Cost Breakdown		
				Year One (2013)	Year Two (2014)	Year Three (2015)

ADMINISTRATIVE SUBTOTAL

PROJECT TOTAL

SECTION FOUR OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS	Units	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Project Cost Breakdown		
				Year One (2013)	Year Two (2014)	Year Three (2015)
Personnel - Deputy Ag. Comm.	400	\$ 48.69	\$ 19,476.00	\$ 9,738.00	\$ 9,738.00	
Personnel - Account Tech II	400	\$ 41.81	\$ 16,724.00	\$ 8,362.00	\$ 8,362.00	
Personnel - Field Tech II	1710	\$ 37.49	\$ 64,107.90	\$ 32,053.95	\$ 32,053.95	
Mileage	5670	\$ 0.55	\$ 3,118.50	\$ 1,559.25	\$ 1,559.25	
Power Sprayer (hours)	280	25	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	

Total Other Contributions	8460	153.54	\$	110,426.40	\$	55,213.20	\$	55,213.20
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val and Survey Project
Commissioner's Office

Year Four (2016)	Total
	\$ 7,123.10
	\$ 30,872.00
	\$ 30,872.00
	\$ 35,190.00
	\$ 85.63
	\$ 64.59
	\$ 11.31
	\$ 10.56
	\$ 7,276.50
	\$ 976.80
	\$ 112,482.49

Year Four (2016)	Total
	0
	\$ -
	\$ -

Year Four (2016)	Total
	0
	\$ -
	\$ -

Year Four (2016)	Total
	\$ 19,476.00
	\$ 16,724.00
	\$ 64,107.90
	\$ 3,118.50
	\$ 7,000.00

\$ 110,426.40

Appendix B3

CEQA/NEPA Compliance Form

(California Environmental Quality Act & National Environmental Policy Act)

Instructions: All applicants, including federal agencies, must complete the CEQA compliance section. Check the box that describes the CEQA status of the proposed project. You must also complete the documentation component and submit any surveys, and/or reports that support the checked CEQA status. NOTE: There is no page limit requirement on this form. You may use the space you need to fully describe the CEQA/NEPA status of this project.

If NEPA is applicable to your project, you must complete the NEPA section in addition to the CEQA section. Check the box that describes the NEPA status of the proposed project. Complete the documentation component and submit any surveys, and/or reports that support the NEPA status.

For both CEQA and NEPA, submittal of permits is only necessary if they contain conditions providing information regarding potential environmental impacts.

CEQA STATUS

(All applicants must complete this section)

Check the box that corresponds with the CEQA compliance for your project. The proposed action is either “Not a Project” under CEQA; is Categorically Exempt from CEQA; or requires a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or an Environmental Impact Report per CEQA.

☐ **“Not a Project” per CEQA**

1. Describe how your project is “Not a Project” per CEQA:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

2. If appropriate, provide documentation to support the “Not a Project” per CEQA status.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

☐ **Categorical Exemption or Statutory Exemption**

If a project is categorically exempt from CEQA, all applicants, including public agencies that provide a filed Notice of Exemption, are required to provide a clear and comprehensive description of the physical attributes of the project site, including potential and known special-status species and habitat, in order for the SNC to make a determination that the project is exempt. A particular project that ordinarily would fall under a specific category of exemption may require further CEQA review due to individual circumstances, i.e., it is within a sensitive location, has a cumulative impact, has a significant effect on the environment, is within a scenic highway, impacts an historical resource, or is on a hazardous waste site. Potential cultural/archaeological resources must be noted, but do not need to be specifically listed or mapped at the time of application submittal. Backup data informing the exemption decision, such as biological surveys, Cultural Information Center requests, research papers, etc. should

accompany the full application. Applicants anticipating the SNC to file an exemption are encouraged to conduct the appropriate surveys and submit an information request to an office of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for claiming a Categorical or Statutory Exemption per CEQA:
[Click here to enter text.](#)
2. If your organization is a state or local governmental agency, submit a signed, approved Notice of Exemption (NOE) documenting the use of the Categorical Exemption or Statutory Exemption, along with any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this CEQA status. The Notice of Exemption must bear a date stamp to show that it has been filed with the State Clearinghouse and/or County Clerk, as required by CEQA.
[Click here to enter text.](#)
3. If your organization is a nonprofit or federal agency, there is no other California public agency having discretionary authority over your project, and you would like the SNC to prepare a NOE for your project, let us know that and provide any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support the CEQA status.
[Click here to enter text.](#)

-
- ☐ **Negative Declaration OR**
☐ **Mitigated Negative Declaration**

If a project requires a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration, then applicants must work with a qualified public agency, i.e., one that has discretionary authority over project approval or permitting, to complete the CEQA process.

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for the use of a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration per CEQA:
[Click here to enter text.](#)
2. Submit the approved Initial Study and Negative Declaration/Mitigated Negative Declaration along with any Mitigation Monitoring or Reporting Plans, permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this CEQA status. The IS/ND/MND must be accompanied by a signed, approved Notice of Determination, which must bear a date stamp to show that it has been filed with the State Clearinghouse and/or County Clerk, as required by CEQA.
[Click here to enter text.](#)

☒ **Environmental Impact Report**

If a project requires an Environmental Impact Report, then applicants must work with a qualified public agency, i.e., one that has discretionary authority over project approval or permitting, to complete the CEQA process.

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for the use of an Environmental Impact Report per CEQA:

The Lower Owens River Project EIR provides functional equivalency per CEQA. This project is consistent with mitigation measure V-2 of the LORP EIR. Please reference the Lower Owens River Project EIR at <http://www.inyowater.org/LORP/DOCUMENTS/LORPFinalEIREIS.pdf> (this document is too large to attach). Additionally, the Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office is a local regulatory agency per California Resources Code Title 14 section 15250(i) and 21080.5. All activities outside of the LORP area are survey measures, and "not a project" under CEQA.

2. Submit the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report along with any Mitigation Monitoring or Reporting Plans, permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this CEQA status. The EIR documentation must be accompanied by a signed, approved Notice of Determination, which must bear a date stamp to show that it has been filed with the State Clearinghouse and/or County Clerk, as required by CEQA.
Click here to enter text.

NEPA STATUS

(Applicable to federal applicants, some tribal organizations, and applicants receiving federal funding or conducting activities on federal lands)

Check the box that corresponds with the NEPA compliance for your project.

Project activities do not occur on federal lands or involve federal agencies.

☐ **Categorical Exclusion**

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for claiming a Categorical Exclusion per NEPA: Click here to enter text.
2. Submit the signed, approved Decision Memo and Categorical Exclusion, as well as documentation to support the Categorical Exclusion, including any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this NEPA status: Click here to enter text.

☐ **Environmental Assessment & Finding of No Significant Impact**

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for the use of

an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact per NEPA: [Click here to enter text.](#)

2. Submit the signed, approved Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact along with any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this NEPA status.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

☐ **Environmental Impact Statement**

1. Describe how your project complies with the requirements for the use of an Environmental Impact Statement per

NEPA: [Click here to enter text.](#)

2. Submit the Draft and approved, Final Environmental Impact Statement, along with the Record of Decision and any permits, surveys, and/or reports that have been completed to support this NEPA status.

E A S T E R N S I E R R A L A N D T R U S T



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Bishop, CA 93515
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October 1, 2012

George Milovich
Nathan Reade
Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area
207 W South St.
Bishop, CA 93514

Re: Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area

To Whom It May Concern,

Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) is very supportive of the work by the Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office related to the Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area. Inyo and Mono Counties have important resources that could be seriously impacted without the work of the Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office. The economy and heritage of these counties are based on thriving agricultural lands, healthy wildlife habitats, and functioning watershed values. Without control of noxious weeds, the health of these resources will be jeopardized.

ESLT works with private landowners to permanently preserve and steward important farm, range, and habitat areas. Noxious weeds are a definite threat to the productivity of wild and working lands, in fact weeds have been found to be the second largest threat to biodiversity after development impacts. We depend on the Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office to assist our landowners in controlling invasive weeds on their property. The expertise, commitment, and experience of the staff at the Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office regarding invasive weed monitoring and control is very impressive and a significant asset to our region.

ESLT urges continued support for the Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office on their Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area projects. This is a critical program for the important working and wild lands of the Eastern Sierra.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for this important program. Please feel free to contact me for any further information.

Very sincerely,

Karen Ferrell-Ingram
Executive Director





Mark Bagley, Owens Valley MOU Representative
Range of Light Group, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club
P.O. Box 1431, Bishop, CA 93515

*One Earth,
One Chance.*

November 8, 2007

George Milovich, Inyo/Mono Agricultural Commissioner
207 W. South Street
Bishop, CA 93514

Subject: support of noxious weed program

Dear Mr. Milovich:

On behalf of the Range of Light Group of the Sierra Club, I would like to express our strong support for the noxious weed management program in the Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area that is administered by your office. Please feel free to use this letter in support of any grants to which your office may apply in order to keep this important program going and to expand your work.

Our group covers Inyo, Mono and Alpine counties and we have for many years been particularly interested and active in promoting habitat restoration efforts in the Owens River and Owens Valley. We believe that the work of your program to detect, control and eradicate noxious weed species has been effective in keeping much of our rangelands and wildlands from being overrun by invasive species. In riparian areas, of particular interest to the Range of Light Group, there is a tremendous threat from perennial peppergrass (*Lepidium latifolium*). Your program has so far kept this very aggressive weed in check, but we must be ever vigilant to guard against its spread. The newly implemented Lower Owens River Project will provide much new riparian area in the southern Owens Valley that could provide habitat for this noxious weed. We hope your program will have the resources to keep up your good work in this area.

Sincerely,

Mark Bagley

Long Term Management and Sustainability

Long Term Management Plan

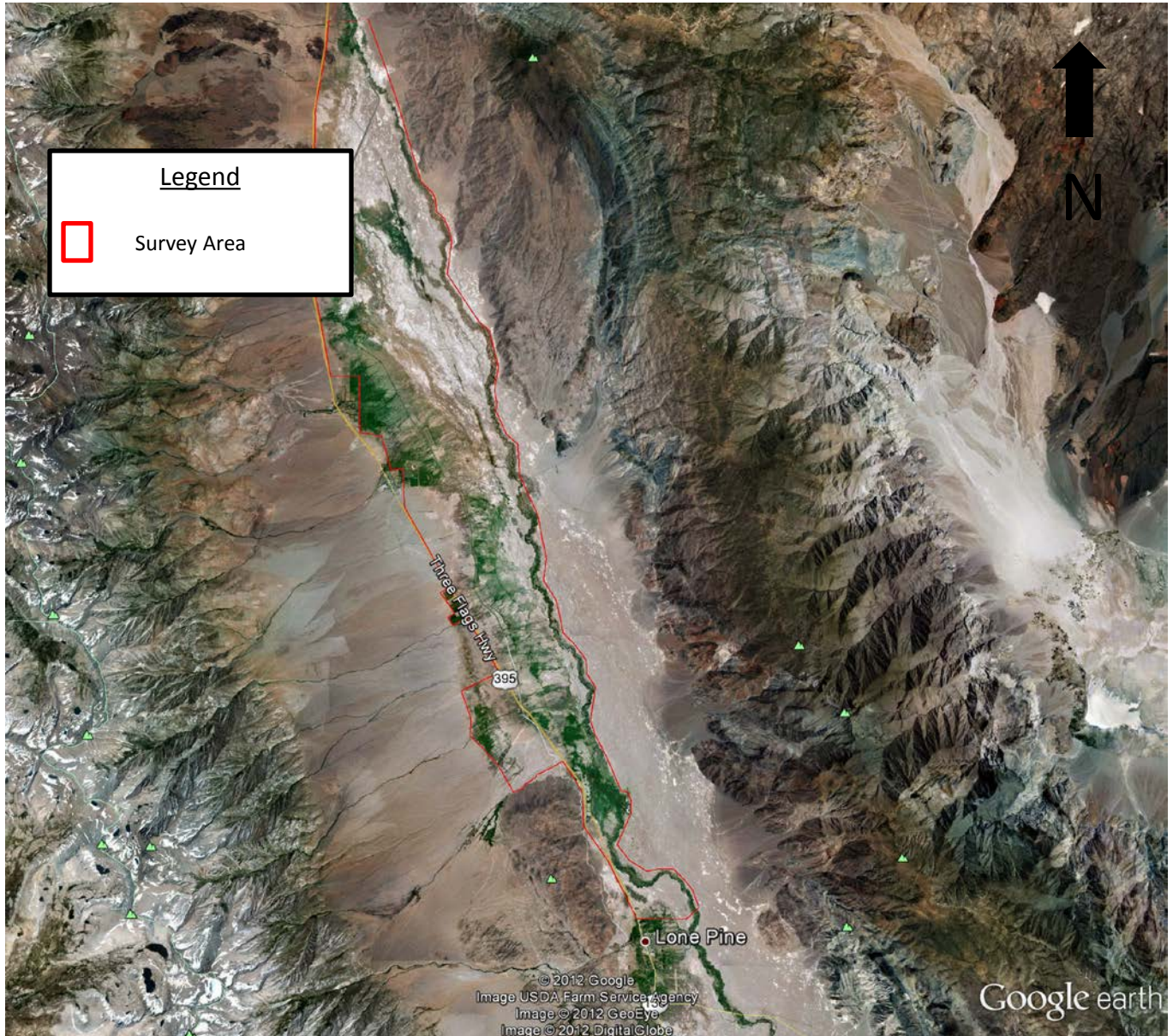
This project will operate in conjunction with the Inyo/Los Angeles Long Term Water Management Agreement, the LORP Monitoring, Adaptive Management, and Reporting Plan, the LORP Recreation Plan, and the LORP EIR – Mitigation Measure V-2.

Each of these plans are too large to attach to this proposal, but can be accessed at

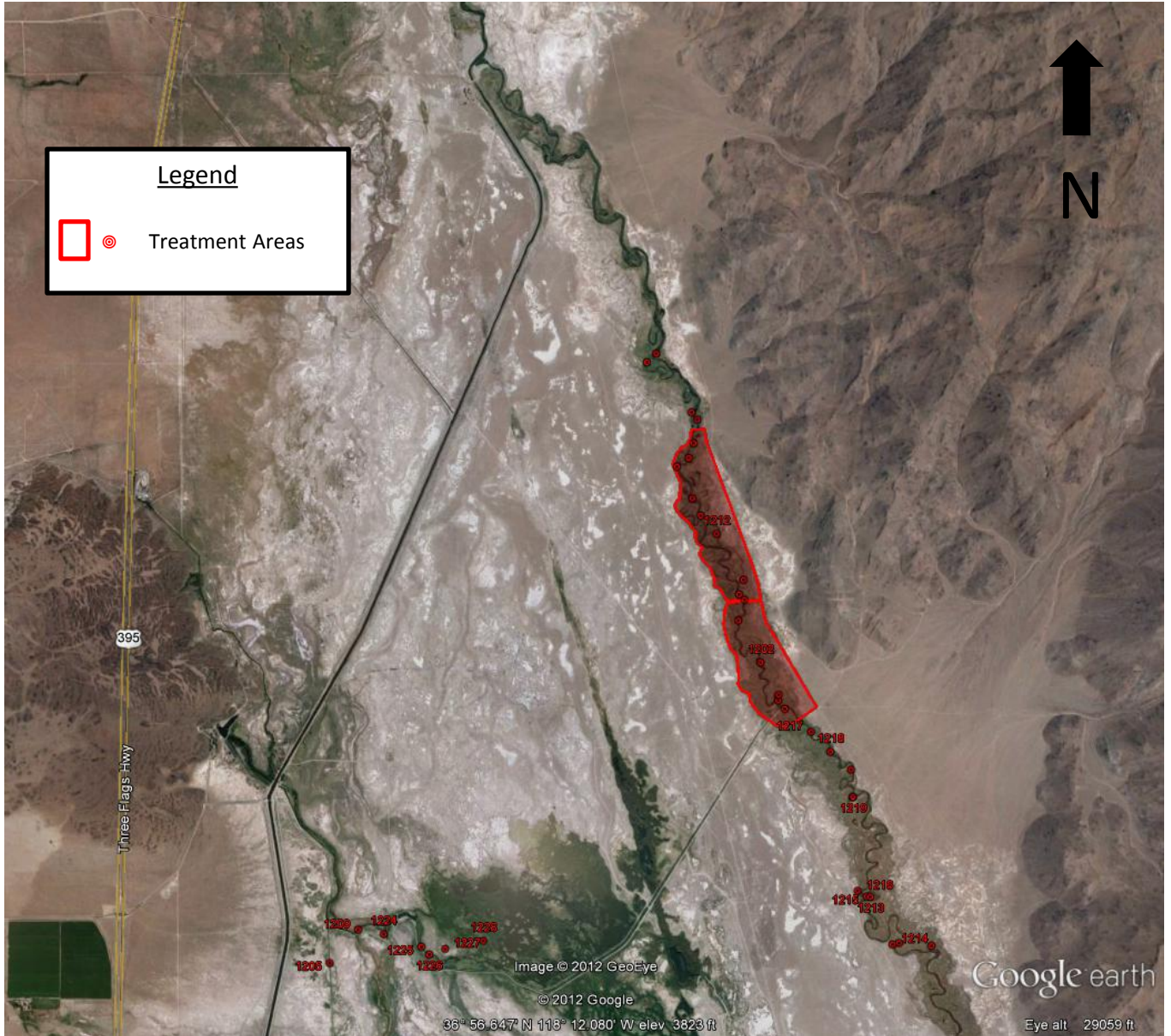
www.inyowater.org/LORP

PROJECT LOCATION MAPS

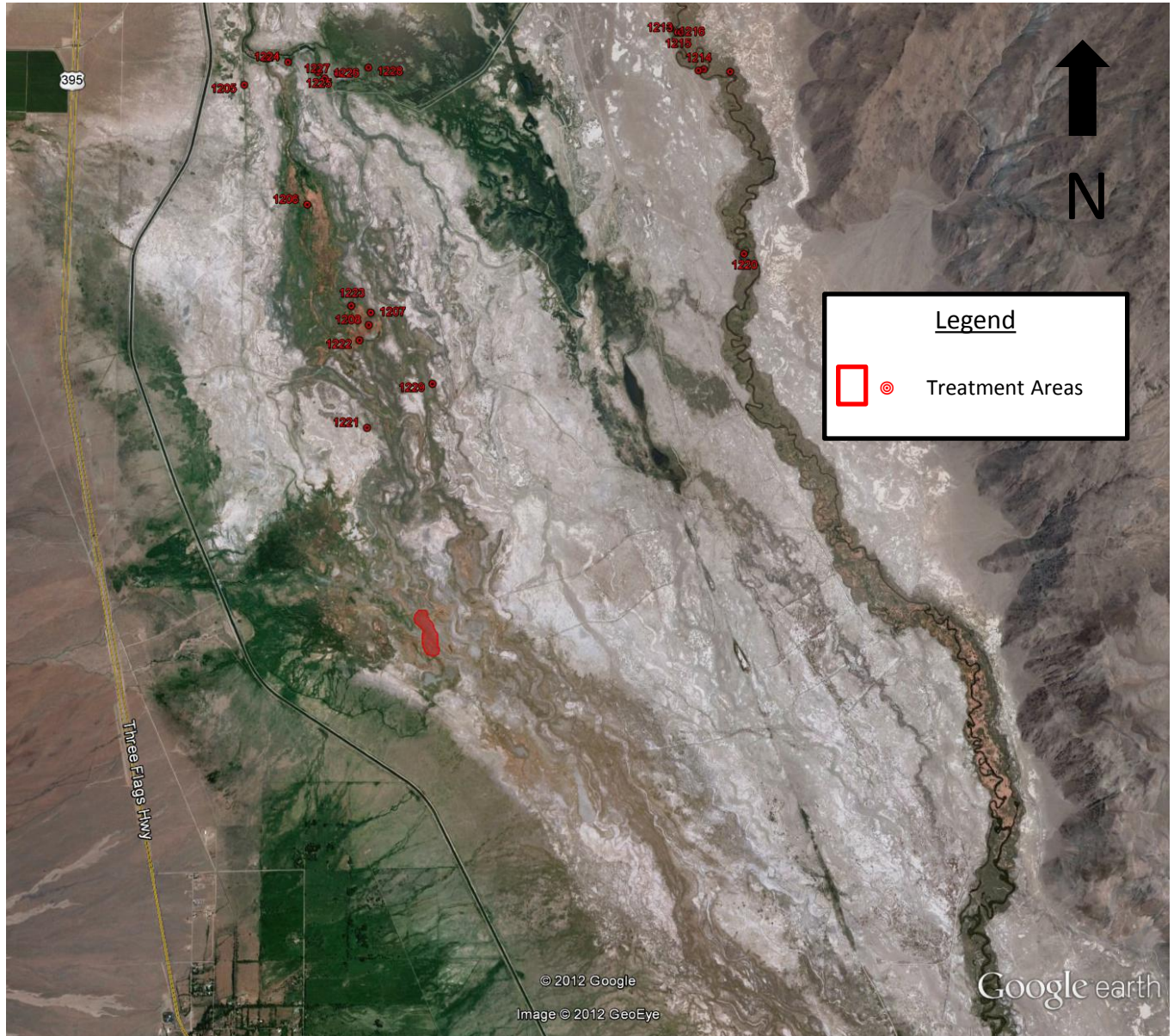
Project Location Maps, Survey Area - Map #1



PROJECT LOCATION MAPS
Project Location Maps, Treatment Area - Map #2

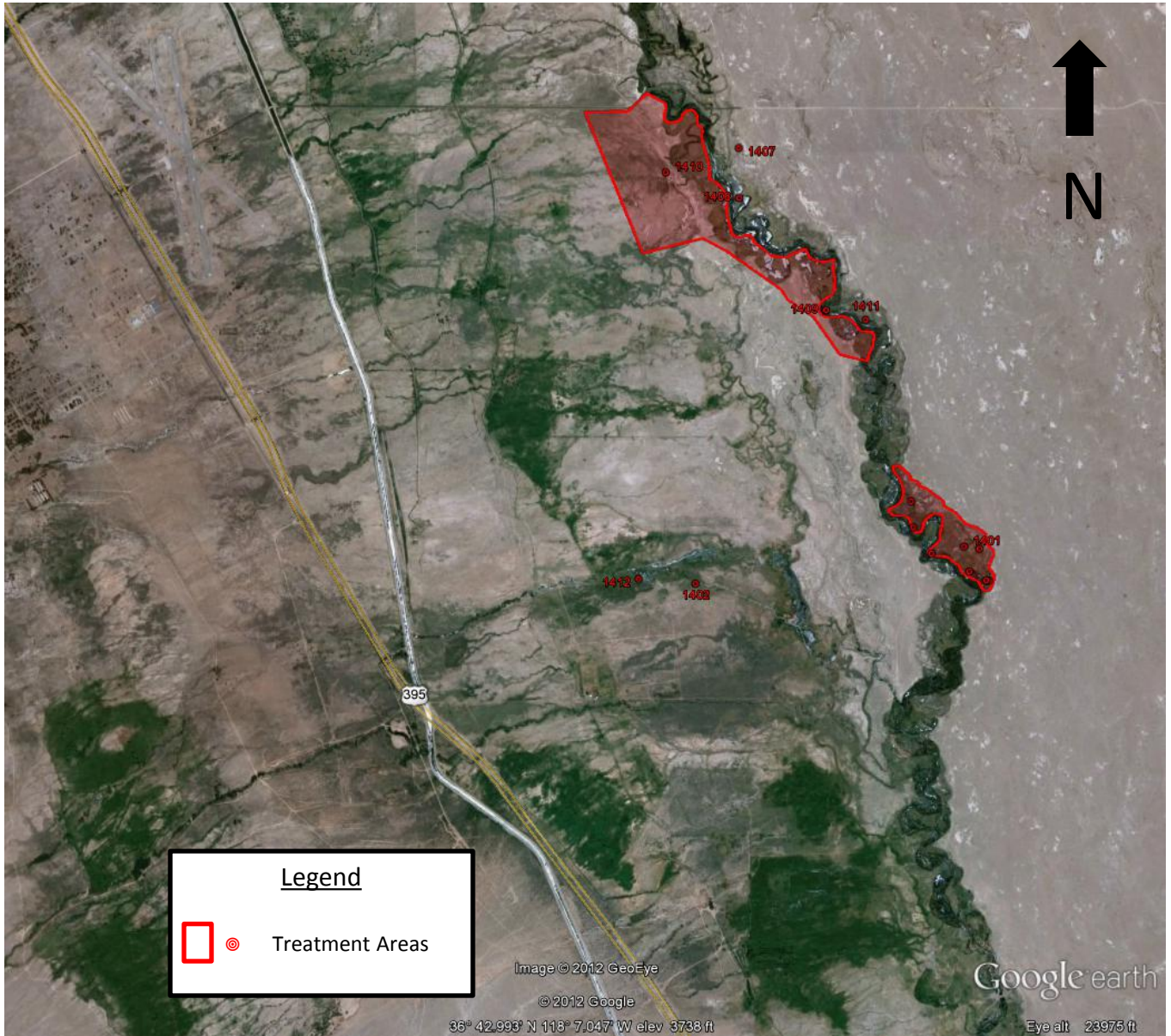


PROJECT LOCATION MAPS
Project Location Maps, Treatment Area - Map #3



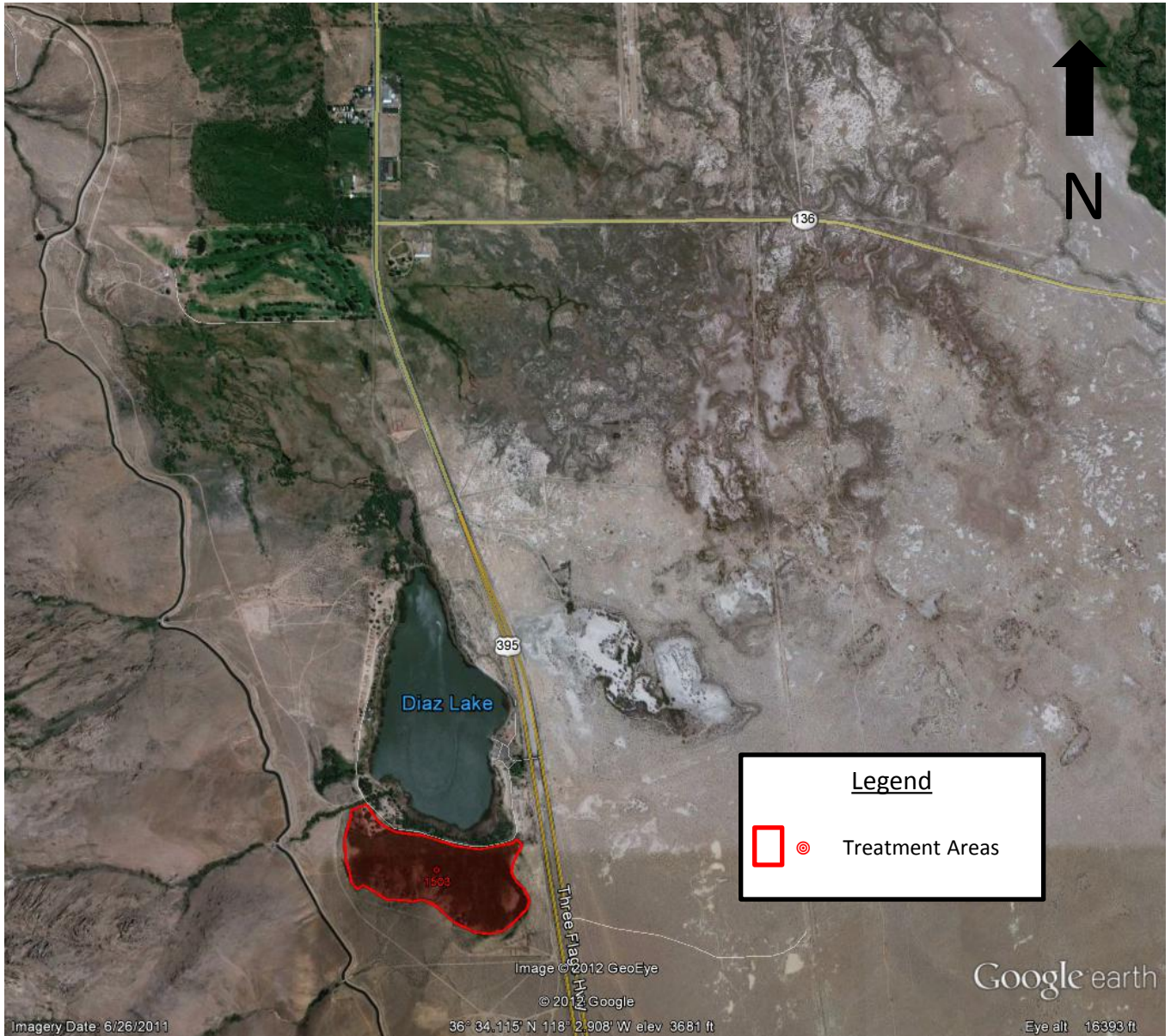
PROJECT LOCATION MAPS

Project Location Maps, Treatment Area - Map #4



PROJECT LOCATION MAPS

Project Location Maps, Treatment Area - Map #5





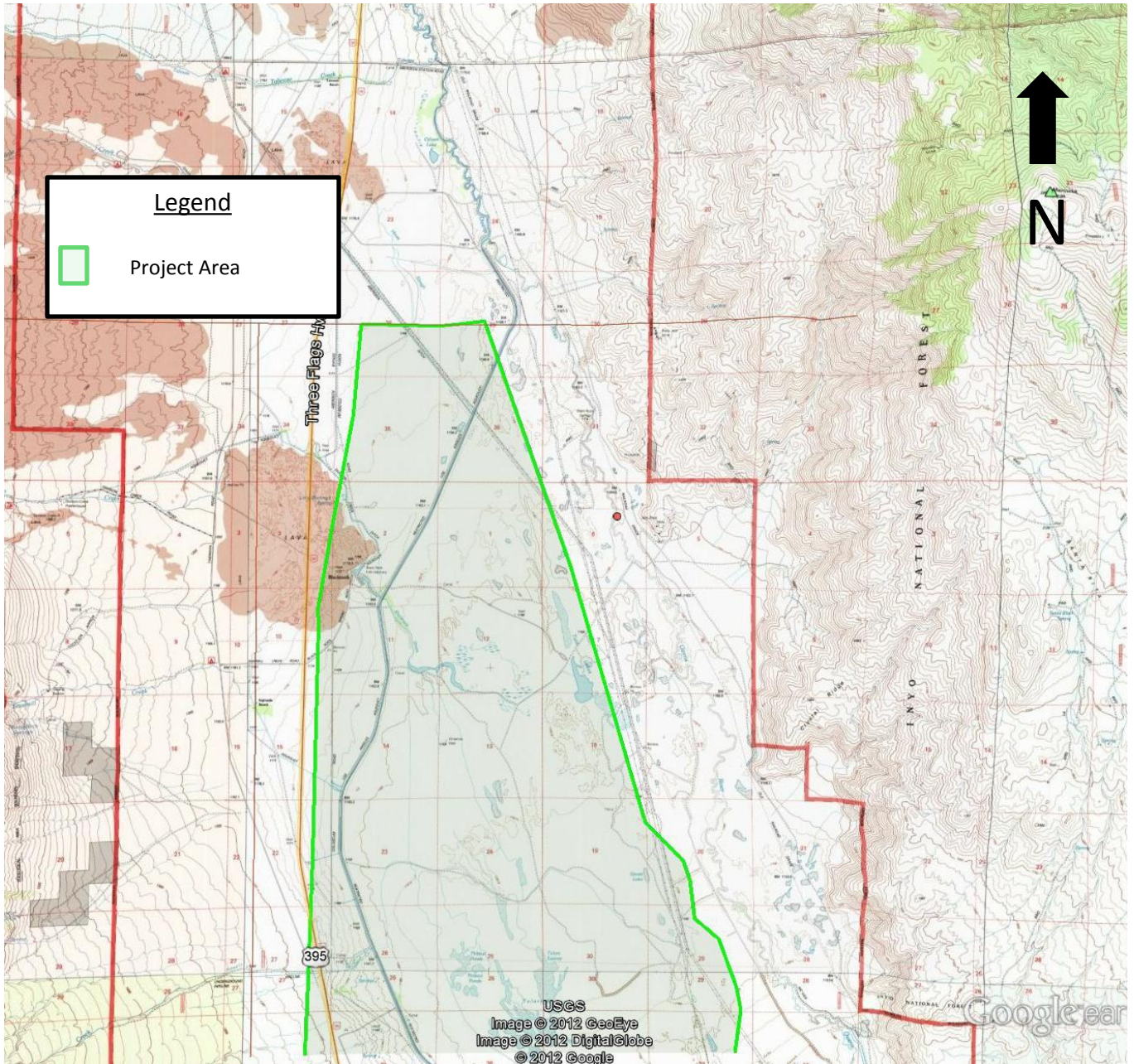
Preservation of Ranch and Ag Lands

UPLOAD UNAVAILABLE OR INVALID

M:\2012-13 workroom\App Intake

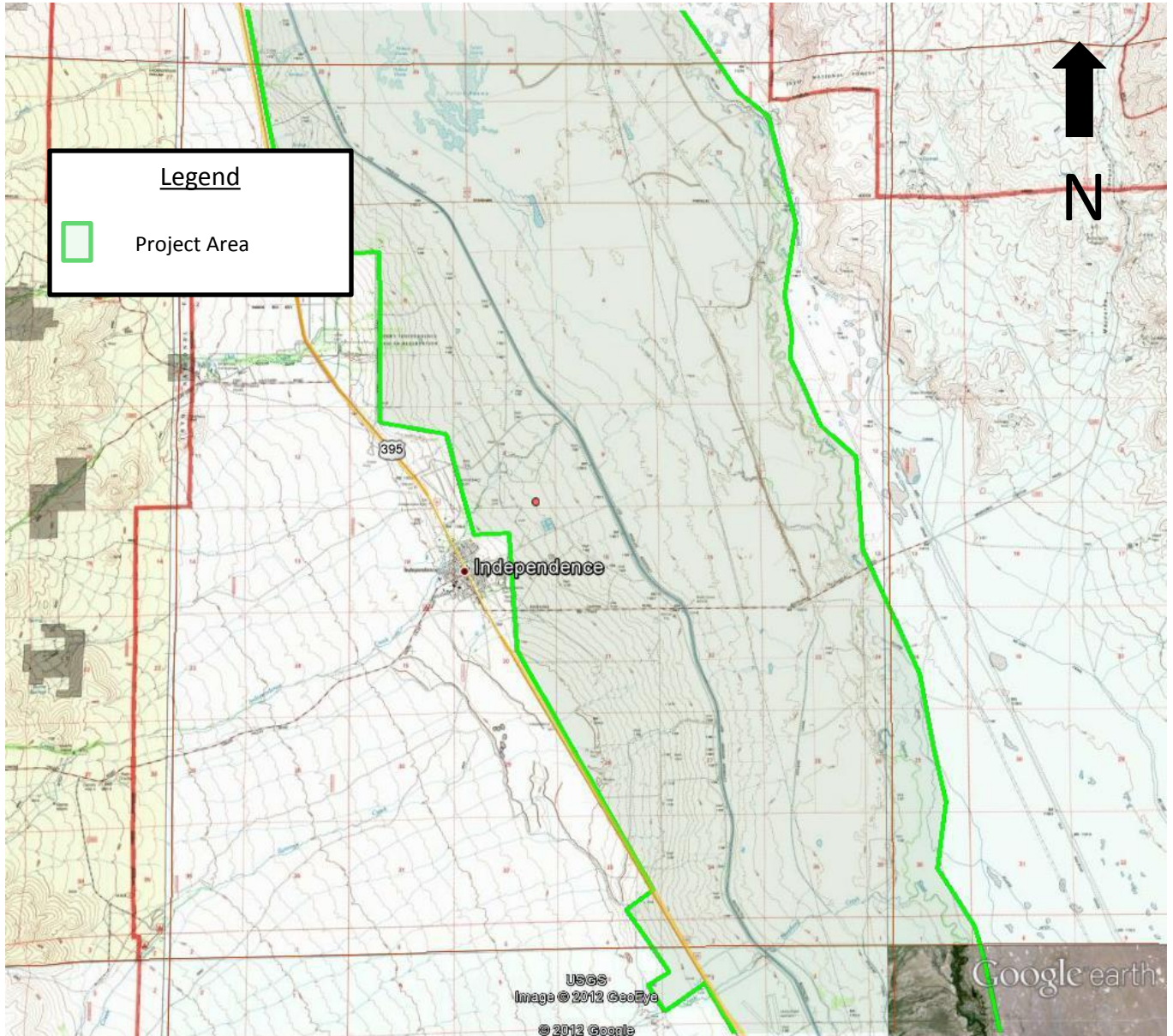
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

Project Area Topographic Maps - Map #1



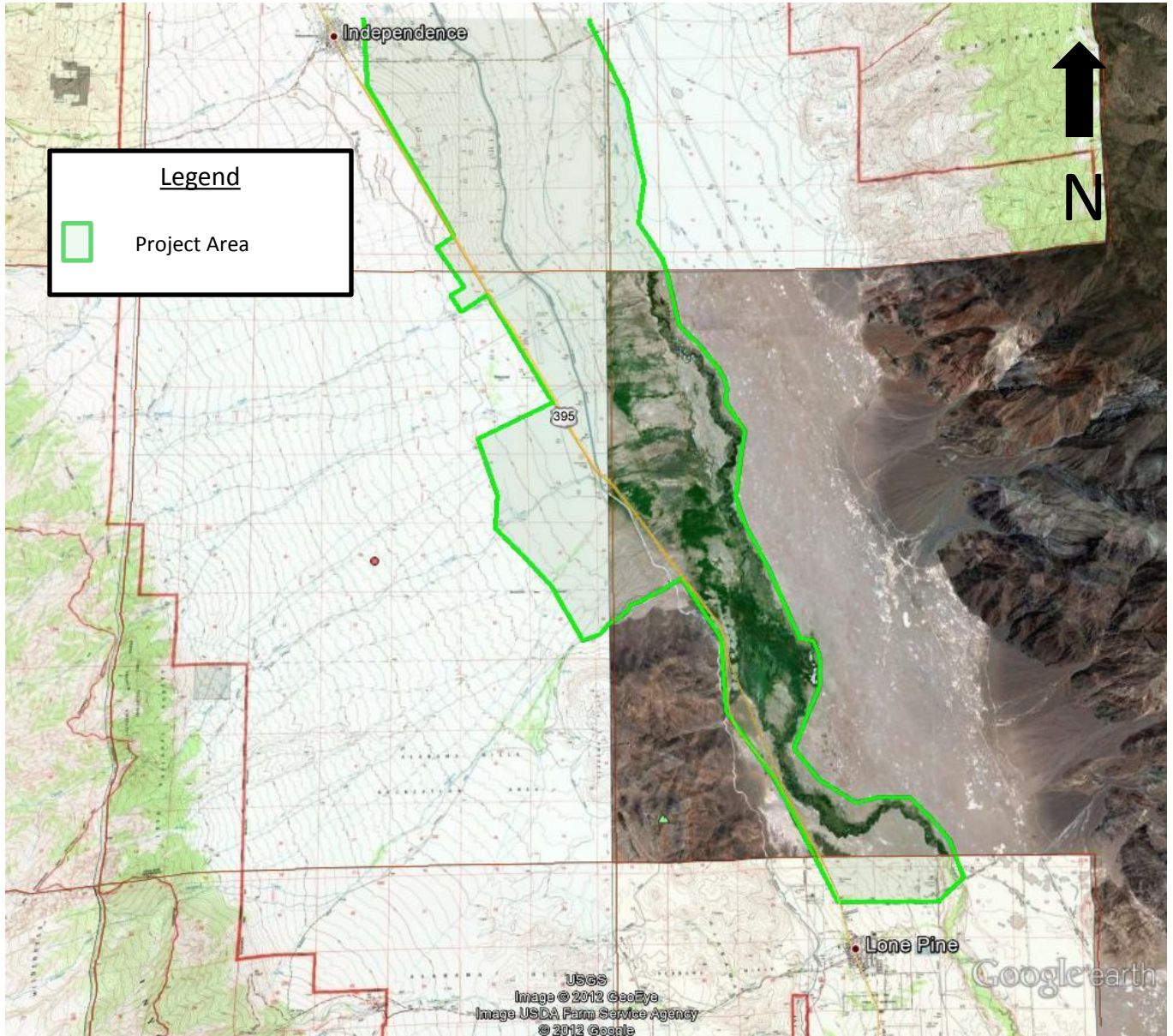
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

Project Area Topographic Maps - Map #2



TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

Project Area Topographic Maps - Map #3



PROJECT SITE PHOTOS

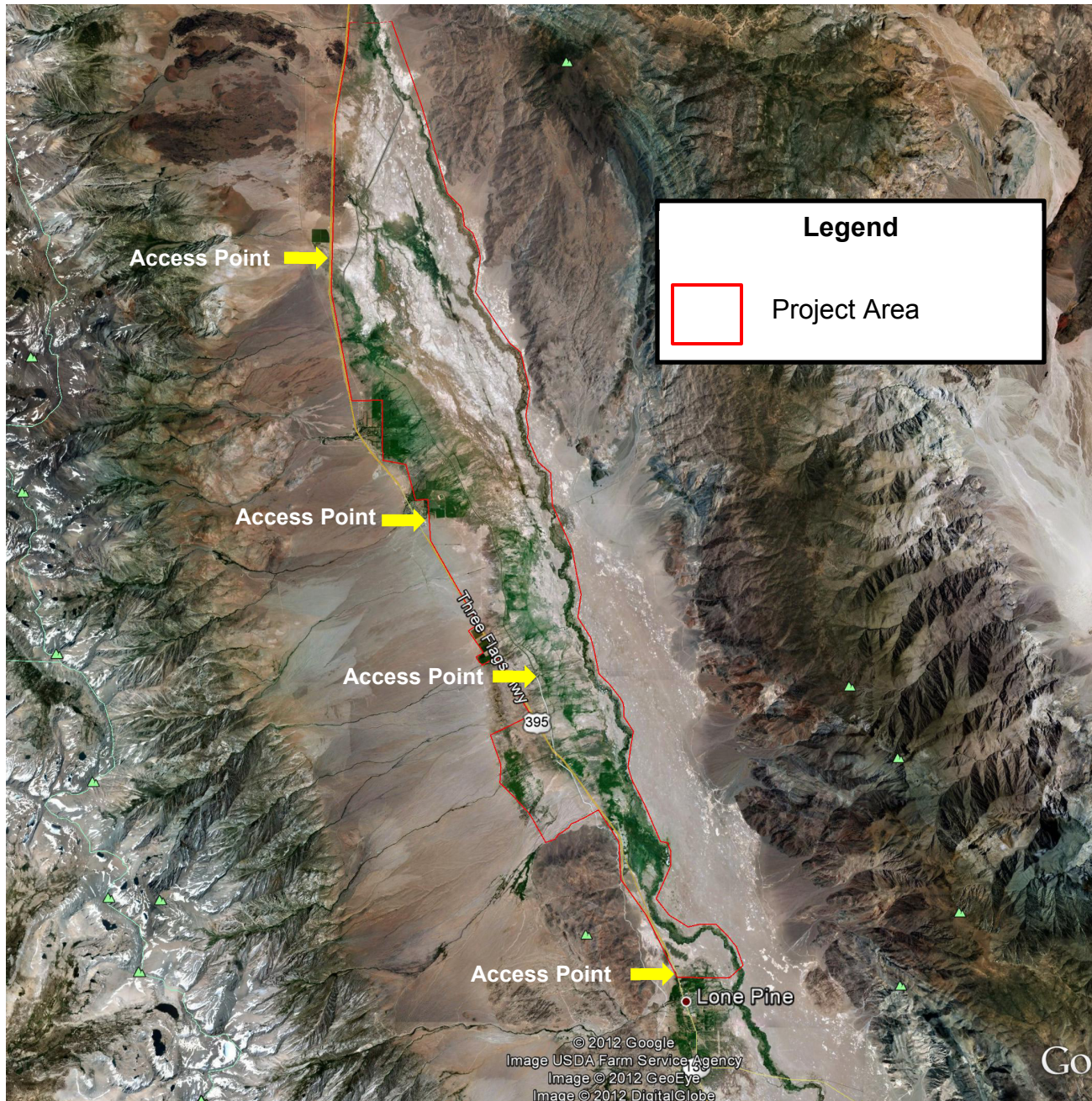
1. Healthy rangeland in project area
2. Area infested with *Lepidium latifolium*, a target pest of the proposed project
3. River area infested with *Lepidium latifolium* showing cut banks and dense monoculture NOT PROJECT AREA
4. River area infested with *Lepidium latifolium* showing cut banks and dense monoculture NOT PROJECT AREA
5. Uninfested, restored section of the Lower Owens River



Tenure Documentation

Land tenure documentation has been delivered for signature to the landowner, and will be presented as soon as possible pursuant to the grant guidelines alternate process.

Site Plan



Leases or Agreements

No additional lease or agreement documentation applies to this project.